



THE SENATE
State of Hawaii

NEWS RELEASE

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Legislation Banning Passengers in Pick-Up Beds to be Introduced Next Session

State Senator Lorraine R. Inouye (D-Hilo, Waimea, Hamakua) and Senator Will Espero (D-Ewa) said they are willing to consider legislation next session that will ban any passengers from riding in the beds of pick-up trucks.

The issue has resurfaced in light of a tragic accident in Kunia on April 24th that resulted in the death of four women who were riding in the back of a pick-up truck. Police are still investigating the case but have determined that the four women killed were among at least 10 people riding in the back of a pick-up that swerved into the path of a cement truck in an attempt to avoid an oncoming vehicle.

The case will no doubt reinvigorate debate about public safety on our roads. Statistics from the state Department of Health show that between 1996 and 2004, 15 people have lost their lives in accidents while riding in the bed of pick-up trucks. Proposed legislation by the two Senators would amend current state law that prohibits children age 12 or younger from riding in pick-up beds to include all passengers.

"I am in the process of drafting legislation for next session that would ensure that we, as a state, are doing all that we can to improve public safety on our roads and prevent the loss of life wherever we can," said Senator Inouye, Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Government Operations. "The safety and protection of the public is the paramount responsibility of government and by introducing this legislation we may be able to help reduce the tragic loss of life on our roadways," said Senator Espero, Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Government Operations.